

United States / Republic of Korea Phytosanitary Bilateral Meeting
June 25, 2002 – June 27, 2002
Kona, Hawaii

Conclusions and Agreements of the Meeting

The heads of delegation from the United States (US) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) respectively were Mr. Alan S. Green, Assistant Deputy Administrator PPQ/APHIS/USDA/ and Mr. Byung-Kee Kim, Director General/NPQS/MAF of Korea.

US Phytosanitary certificates

NPQS accepted the conditions for phytosanitary certification, detailed in the letter dated June 12, 2002, to Mr. Byung-Kee Kim from Alan Green. NPQS agreed to accept phytosanitary certificates issued after the date the vessel departs, provided the inspection date is on or before departure. NPQS will notify all Korean ports of entry concerning the agreed conditions. APHIS agreed to send an alert to the field notifying certifying officials that re-export and processed products certificates should, whenever possible, be issued prior to departure. In the unlikely event issuance should occur after departure, NPQS will review each instance individually on a case-by-case basis. NPQS agreed to work cooperatively with the APHIS-Seoul office in resolving such issues.

US Cherries to Korea

NPQS agrees with the November 2000 letter from APHIS addressing the mitigations for shot-hole disease and accepts them as adequate means of mitigating for this pest. NPQS indicated that the review of the information on cherry leaf spot was near completion. NPQS requested additional information on the survey conducted establishing area freedom of cherry leaf spot. If the information is not sufficient, NPQS will inform APHIS as soon as possible. NPQS has agreed to work towards completion of the review so that cherries may be exported to Korea in the 2003 season.

US Oregon Blueberries

NPQS indicated that several additional pests were identified through literature searches. Upon returning to Korea, NPQS will send a letter to APHIS with the names of these additional pests and, may request additional information on blueberry pests. This should lead to discussions regarding mitigation measures.

US Processed Wood Products

NPQS provided APHIS an explanation of their existing requirements for the importation of various types of processed wood products. APHIS will develop and present a risk case-study that shows that under specified circumstances, exports of sufficiently processed products do not present a pest risk. NPQS agreed to promptly review such a document.

US Wood Packing Material (WPM)

APHIS expects to adopt the IPPC Guidelines on wood packing material. Both APHIS and NPQS agree that open communication must be maintained in such a large initiative impacting a wide spectrum of international trade. APHIS anticipates publishing an Interim Regulation by the end of 2002 adopting the IPPC standard for imported WPM. Such a regulation would include a "phase-in" period during which no action would be taken.

US Request for Korean plant health import regulations

APHIS requested a current and complete version of the Korean plant health import regulations. NPQS agreed to deliver a copy of the regulations to the APHIS- Seoul office with the understanding that the regulations will not be in English. NPQS also agreed to obtain and deliver a copy of the domestic Pinewood Nematode regulations.

US Grass seed

NPQS provided an explanation of how their classification of quarantine pests could be determined by the host on which the pest was intercepted. APHIS emphasized that regulatory action should only be required if that pest meets the IPPC criteria for quarantine pest. NPQS agreed to review their system of pest categorization.

US Pomegranate

US requested an update on the status of the market access request and pest list for California pomegranates to Korea. NPQS indicated that the preliminary review was near completion. At this time, 20 additional pests were identified in literature searches. NPQS indicated that the list of 20 additional pests will be provided to APHIS in the near future.

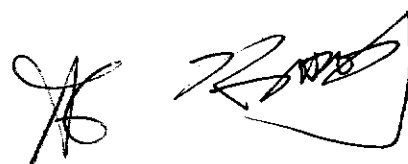
US Hawaiian Papaya

APHIS is preparing a proposal for the joint confirmatory efficacy tests of vapor heat treatment for fruit flies. APHIS inquired as to the import requirements for genetically modified organisms into Korea. Although not a primary responsibility, NPQS agreed to make inquiries at the appropriate government agencies.

Korea Unshu Oranges

NPQS indicated that the delay in the rule making process for lifting the entry restrictions of Korean Unshu oranges into the five citrus producing states which was targeted for 2001 season, at the bilateral meeting in the year 2000, has resulted in disappointment and deep concern by the Korean citrus industry toward government. NPQS asked for an explanation about the delays in the rule making process and when a final rule is anticipated.

APHIS explained that due to a number of complications, the expectations of progress in resolving this issue after the last bilateral meeting were not met. For several years the risk assessment staff was not fully staffed. Recently, this staff hired approximately twelve new risk assessors and underwent a drastic reorganization. In addition to the short staffing and reorganization, APHIS rules and PRAs have undergone increased



scrutiny and have been challenged legally. Because of the increased level of scrutiny and legal challenges, APHIS has found it is necessary to strengthen the review and comment process for PRAs.

However, barring the introduction of new scientific information not previously considered, APHIS is committed to establish, within its authority, a regulation expanding the exportation of Unshu Oranges from Korea into the five citrus producing states. The PPQ Deputy Administrator provided a letter stating he fully supports this initiative and intends on taking the necessary means to ensure that such an action, if possible, will be enacted in time for the 2003 shipping season. Efforts will be made to meet a targeted date of May 2003 for publication of a final rule. The PRA has been completed and will soon be available for public comment in the Federal Register. Although NPQS expressed their feeling of disappointment with the progress made to date on this issue, NPQS recognizes that these actions are positive steps in moving forward in the US rule making process.

Korea Persimmons

NPQS requested an update on the status of access for persimmons. APHIS explained that the PRA process is complete and APHIS has initiated the rule making process to allow Korean persimmons. This commodity will be included in the 11th periodic amendment to the USDA fruit and vegetable quarantine regulation targeting the 2003/2004 shipping season.

Korea Cucurbits

NPQS requested a status report of how much progress had been made in the rule making process for the importation of cucurbits from Korea into the US. APHIS explained that the relevant data supplied by NPQS has been favorably reviewed and has made a decision to proceed with the rule making process. APHIS has included the importation of cucurbits in a proposed rule being prepared for publication in the Federal Register (the 12th Periodic Amendment to the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Quarantine) targeting the 2003/2004 shipping season (October - April).

Korea Pear Preclearance

NPQS requested APHIS to reduce the number of APHIS officers for the pear preclearance program. APHIS explained that any significant changes would require the approval of the Preclearance Advisory Group. APHIS suggested that a review of the all Korean preclearance programs (chestnuts, Unshu oranges, and pears) be conducted in 2002. A primary objective would be to assess the relative oversight responsibilities of Korea and US, especially for pears.

Korea Shepherd's Purse

The APHIS Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology has scheduled this PRA for completion within 12 months.

Korea Grapes

NPQS requested an update on the status of access for grapes. APHIS explained that the PRA process is complete and APHIS has initiated the rule making process to allow Korean grapes. This commodity will be included in the 12th periodic amendment to the USDA fruit and vegetable quarantine regulation.

Korea Peppers

The PRA for Korean peppers (paprika) has been initiated and is a priority PRA for APHIS. The APHIS Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology has scheduled this PRA for completion within 12 months.

Korea Tomato

The PRA for Korean tomato has been initiated and is a priority PRA for APHIS. The APHIS Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology has scheduled this PRA for completion within 12 months.

Korea Dropwort

The PRA for Korean dropwort has been initiated and is a priority PRA for APHIS. The APHIS Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology has scheduled this PRA for completion within 12 months.

Korea Wild Chive

The APHIS Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology has scheduled this PRA for completion within 12 months.

Korea Sweet Potato

The PRA for sweet potato has been added to the list of PRA's (over 300) pending completion by the APHIS Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology. NPQS requested that APHIS initiate the PRA for this commodity.

US Hay

NPQS expressed concerns about US hay shipments in which contaminants such as barley, rye, and wheat may be present. NPQS identified Hessian fly as a specific pest of concern and inquired about fumigation to eliminate risk. APHIS requested information on the types of hay and the origin which were contaminated with prohibited material. NPQS may provide APHIS with further information. Both sides agreed to continue the discussion after NPQS analyzes data collected from US hay shipments.

Final Comments

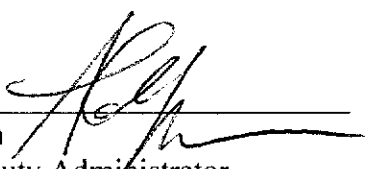
Over the last two years the US and Korea have engaged in a cooperative technical exchange that has proven most productive. The positive climate between our agencies

has made it possible to make great progress in the resolution of issues important to both sides

The US has made progress in resolving several issue of importance to Korea. APHIS established the first preclearance program for chestnuts with Korea. APHIS has completed several risk analyses process for a number of commodities. Completion of these assessments has allowed APHIS to make the technical decision to proceed with rule making. The rule making process has been initiated for the importation of Korean Unshu oranges, persimmons, cucurbits, and grapes. APHIS has also recently completed PRAs for the importation of Unshu oranges from Korea into the five citrus producing states of the US. In addition, APHIS has also revised the pest risk assessment for Korean Fuji apples. Both of these PRAs will be made available for public comment in the Federal Register in the upcoming weeks.

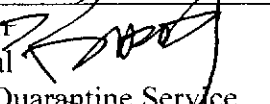
In the past two years, Korea has agreed to recognize the quarantine areas and length of duration established by APHIS for exotic fruit flies. NPQS also agreed to accept industry fumigation of shelled walnuts as an equivalent measure to the required quarantine treatment. Korea also agreed to, and signed the Caribbean fruit fly protocol. Most recently, Korea agreed to accept the APHIS method for dating Phytosanitary Certificates.

Both APHIS and NPQS agree that maintaining the existing positive working relationship between our two agencies has greatly benefited both and has contributed to improving the relationship between USDA and MAF. Based on trust and respect, the cooperative working relationship will serve to achieve greater accomplishments in the future.



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June 27, 2002



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Director General
National Plant Quarantine Service
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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